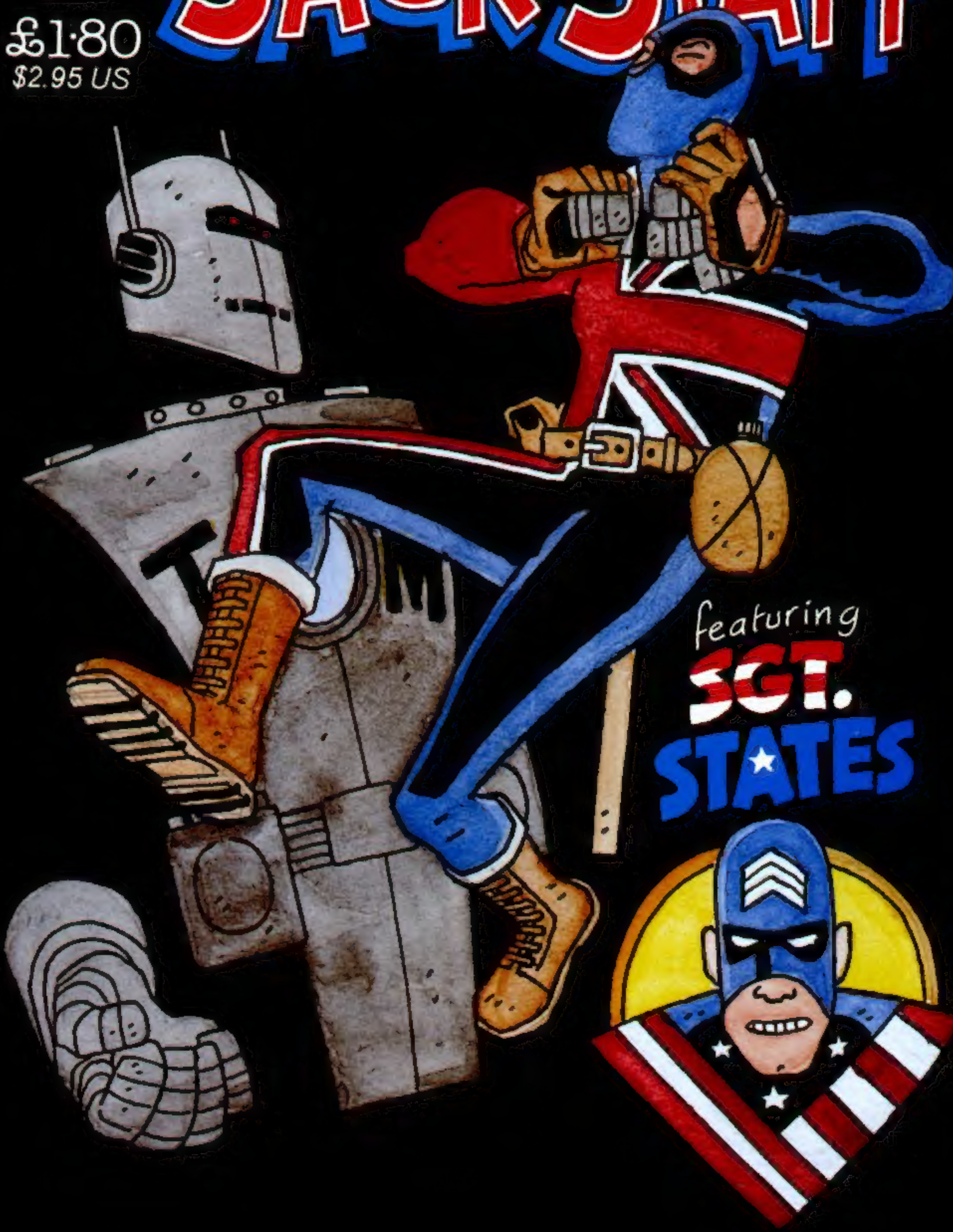




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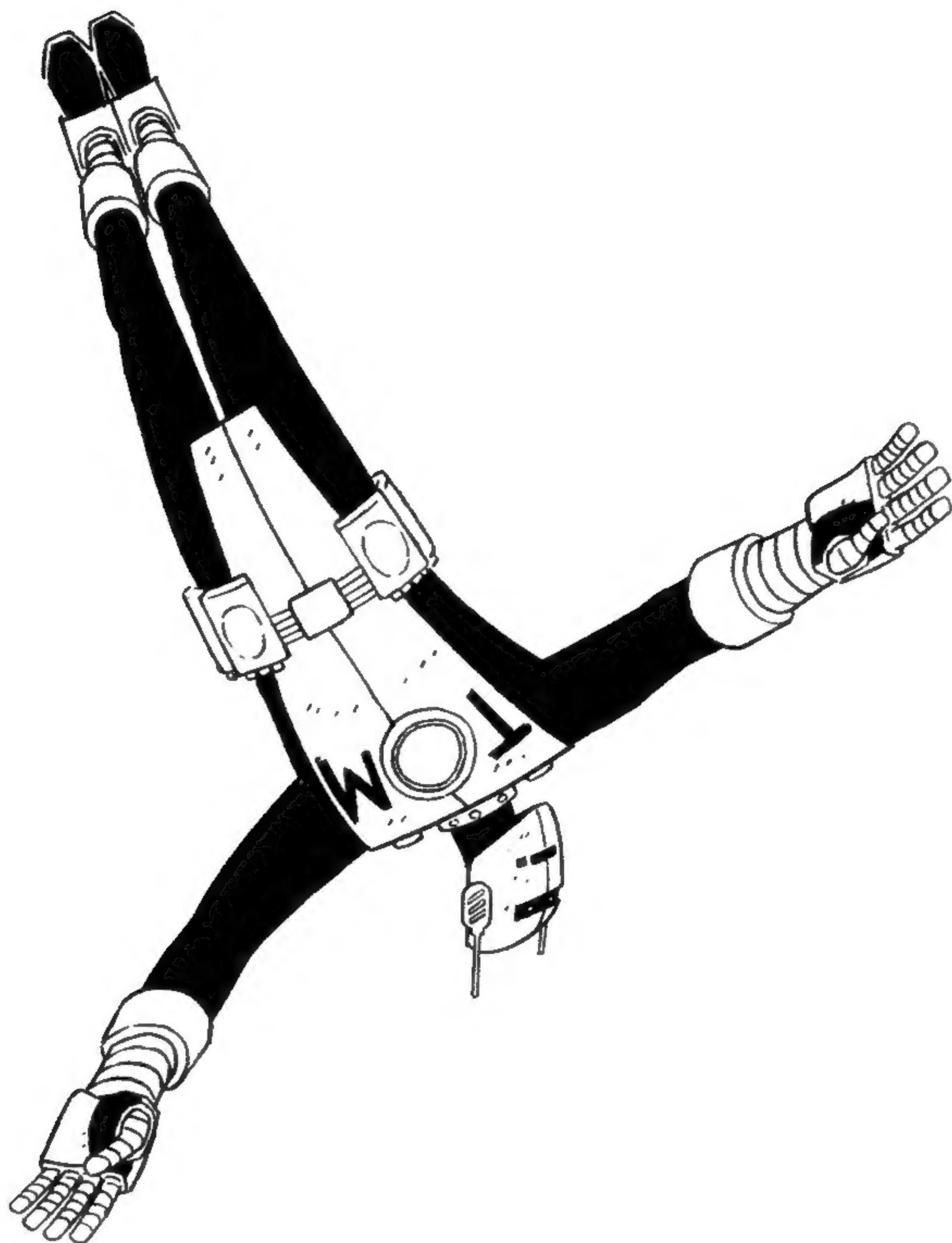
# JACK STAFF



featuring  
**SGT.**  
**STATES**







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This is the story  
you never read in  
the MORNING PAPER.

OKAY.  
OKAY.

I'D BE  
THE FIRST  
TO ADMIT  
THAT, RIGHT  
NOW, THIS  
**DOESN'T**  
LOOK TOO  
GOOD.

I should know.

I'm the reporter  
who never wrote it.

BUT  
THERE  
**IS** AN  
EXPLANA-  
TION  
...

Another exclusive  
report From

# BECKY BURDOCK

Girl Reporter

The man with the  
stick is  
**JACK STAFF--**  
Britain's Greatest  
Hero ...

ONLY  
PROBLEM  
IS YOU  
**PROBABLY**  
WON'T  
BELIEVE  
IT ANYWAY.

I know, you never  
heard of him.

Nobody has for  
**TWENTY YEARS.**

Until tonight when  
he turned up stood  
over the body of  
the third victim of  
the **CASTLETOWN**  
**SLASHER.**

SO.

HOW ABOUT  
YOU JUST  
**TRUST ME**  
ON THIS  
ONE?

It's a good story.  
A big story.

OKAY  
**RED?**

FRONT PAGE NEWS.



# THEN ALONG CAME TOM TOM THE ROBOT MAN

TARGET FIX ---

ENLARGE IMAGE

IMAGE ENLARGED

VICTIM IDENTIFIED

MORGAN -- HELEN

Q AGENT --

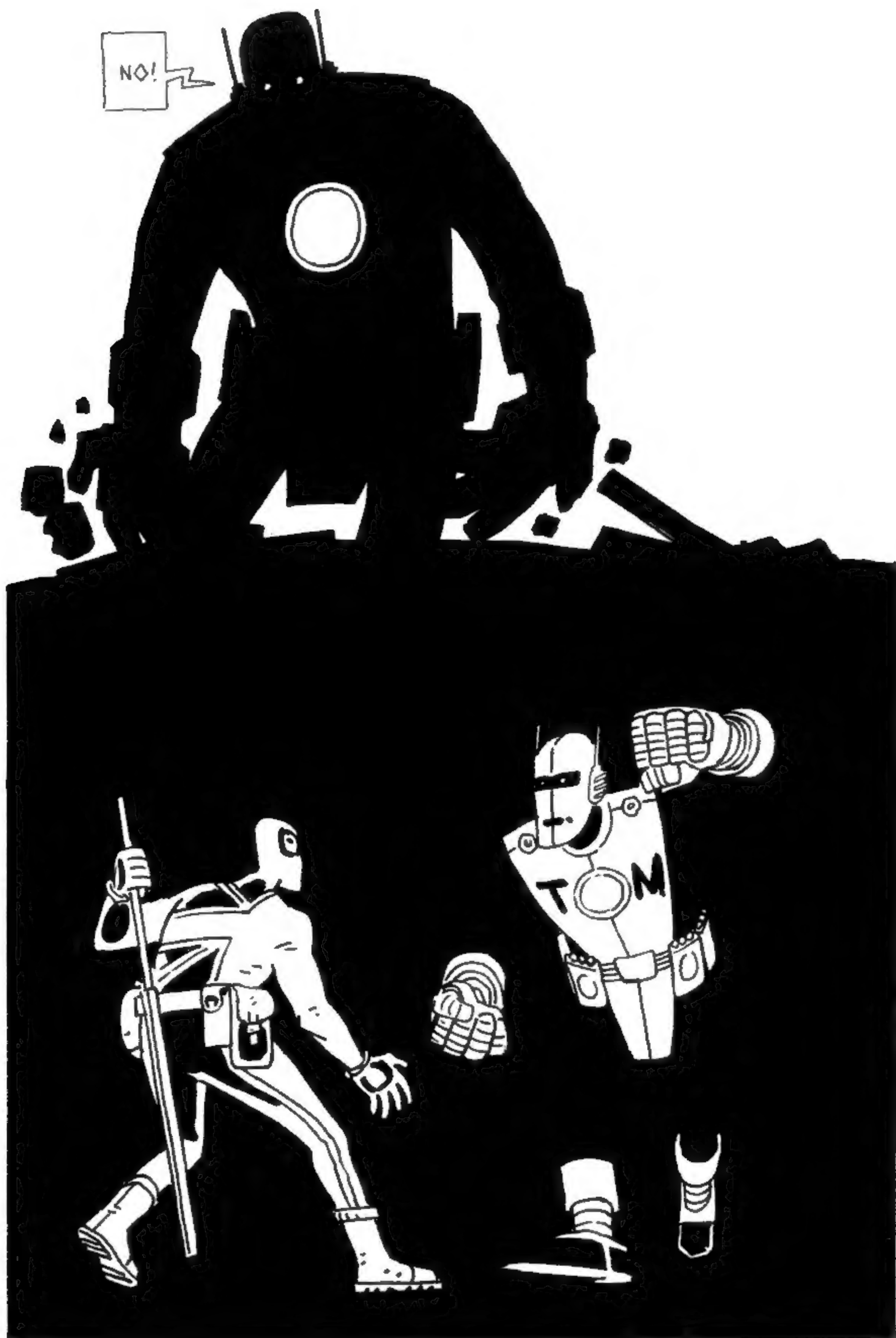
NO

NO!

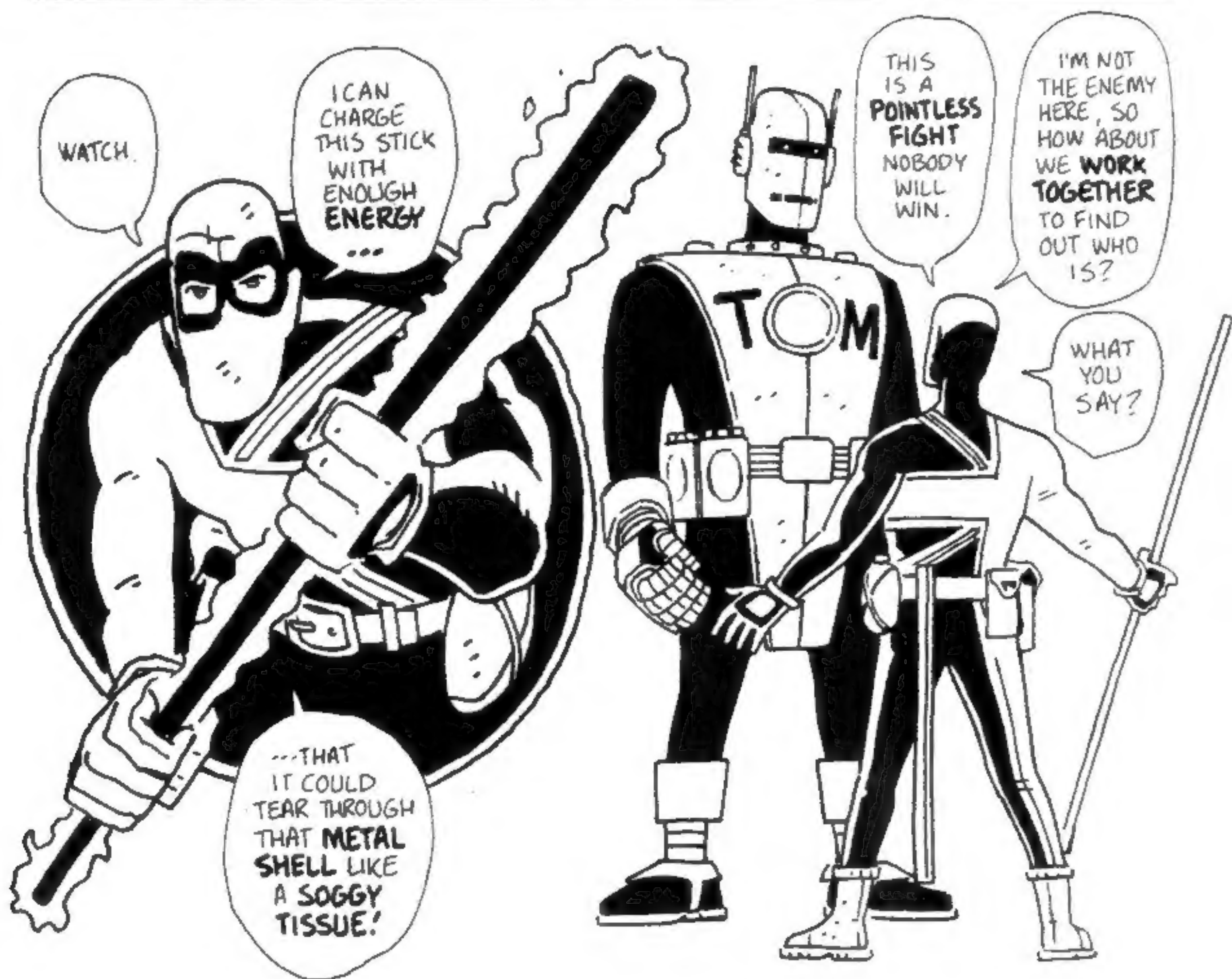
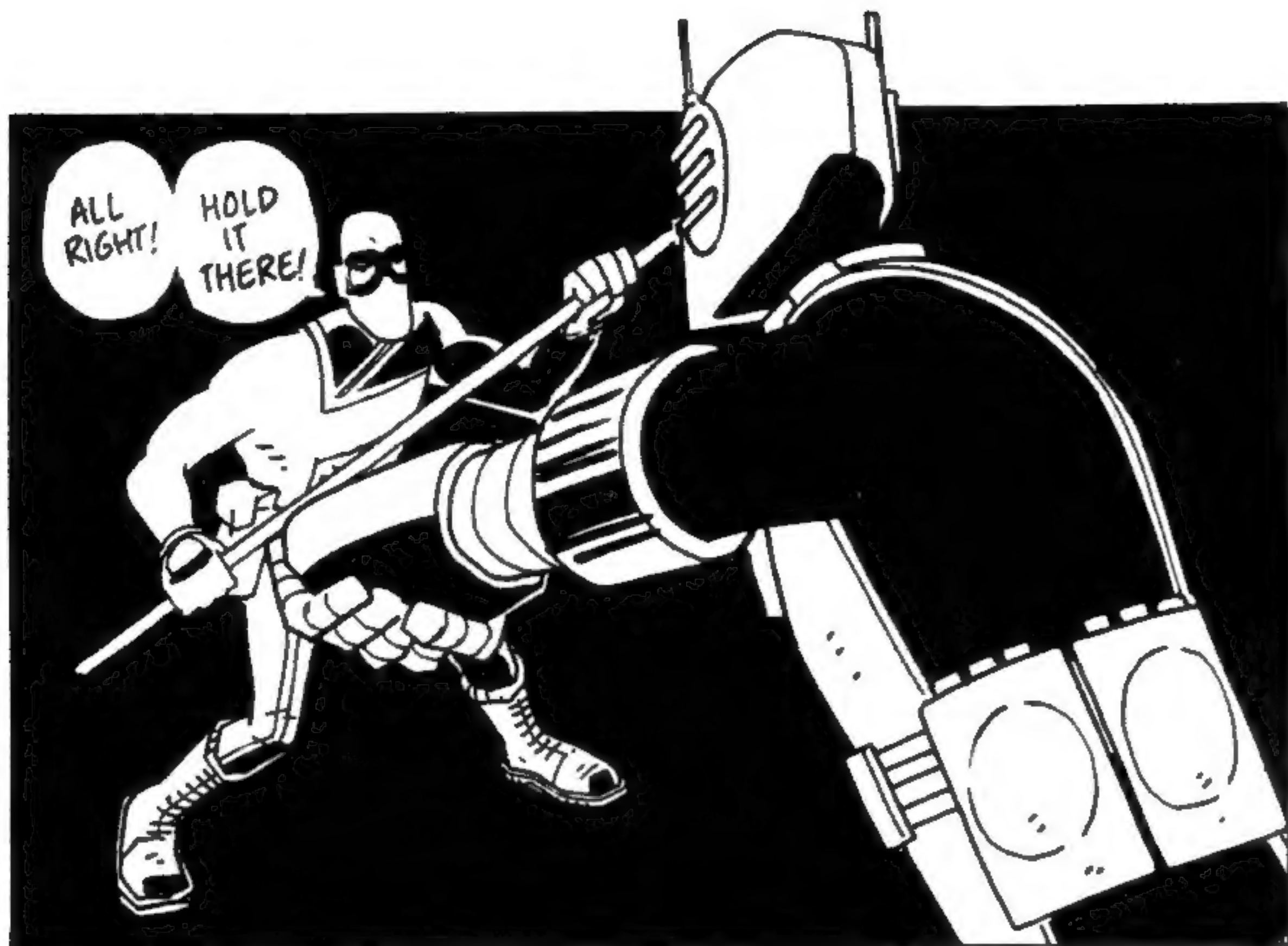
NO!



NO!









OKAY  
FLAG  
GUY--

LET ME  
SHOW YOU  
WHAT TOM-  
TOM THE  
ROBOT MAN  
CAN DO...





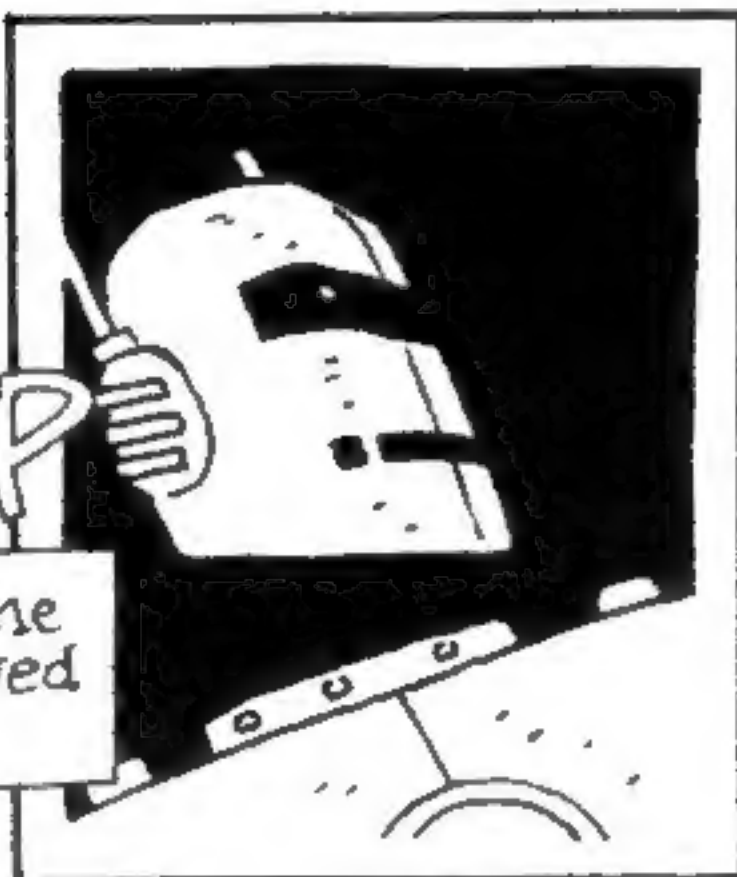
# PHOTO FINISH



It was all over in  
FIFTEEN SECONDS.

WHEE  
OOOP

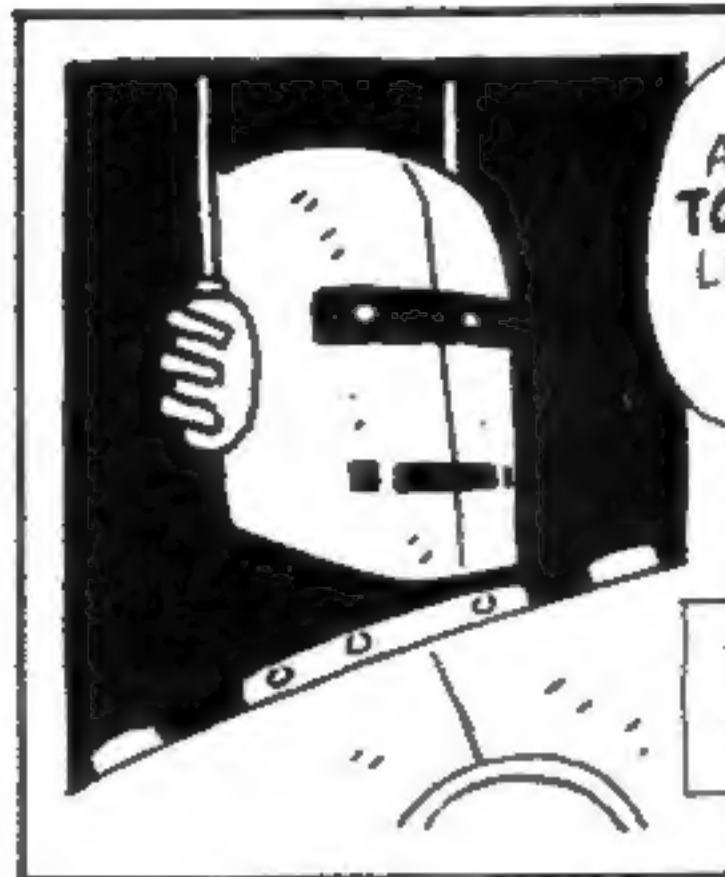
And then the  
POLICE showed  
up.



ALRIGHT  
TOM-TOM!  
LET HIM  
GO!

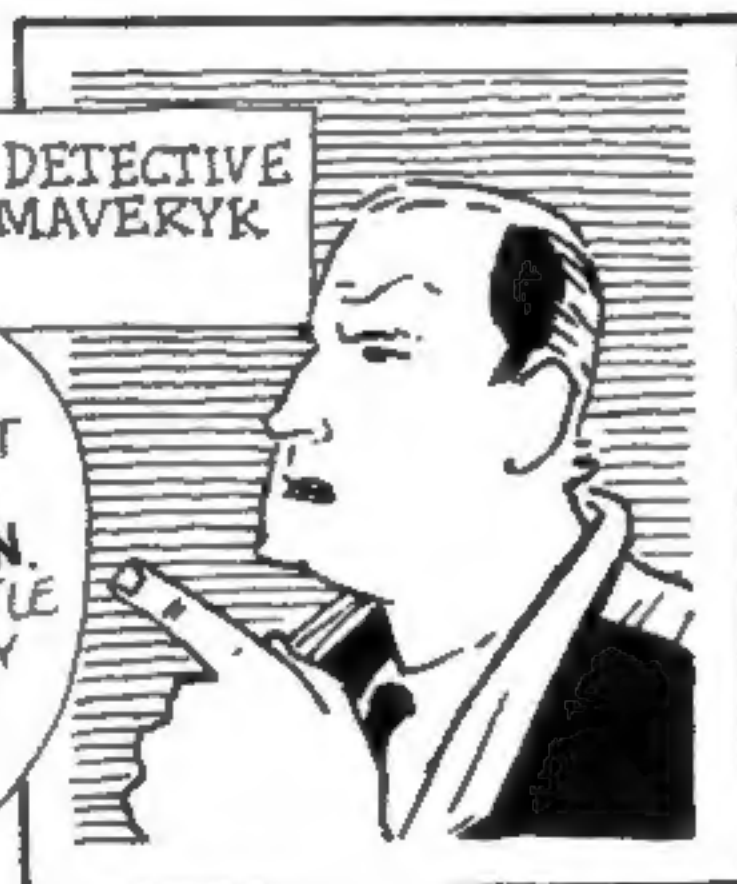
LET  
ME HAVE  
HIM  
NOW!

I WANT TO  
HURT HIM!



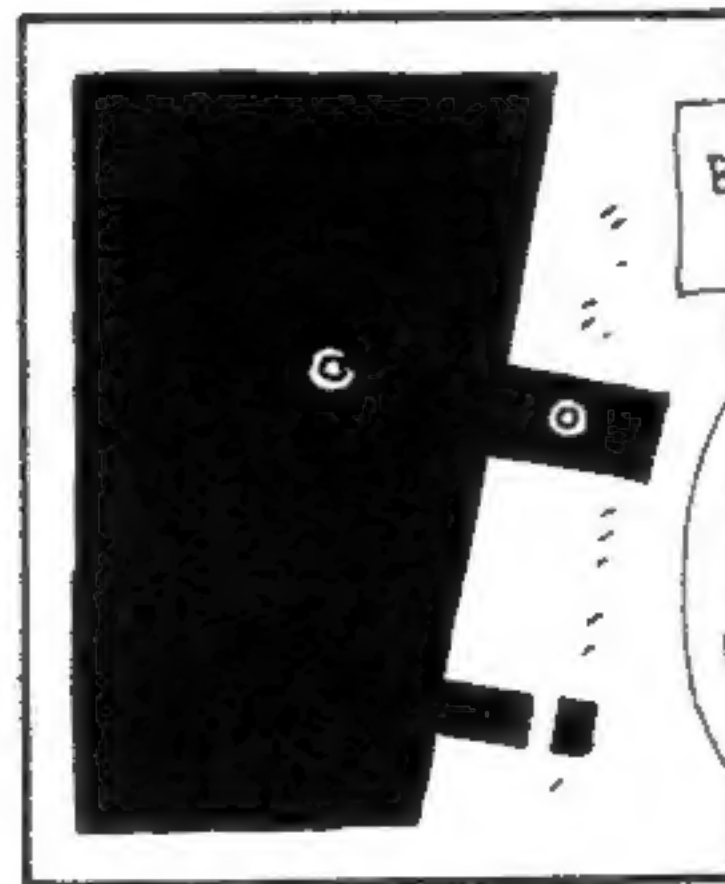
Or, at least, DETECTIVE  
INSPECTOR MAVERYK  
did.

YOU DO,  
AND I'LL HUNT  
YOU DOWN  
**ROBOT MAN.**  
I'LL DISMANTLE  
YOU NUT BY  
NUT. BOLT  
BY BOLT.



BUT HE KILLED  
MORGAN!

THEY  
WON'T BE  
ABLE TO MAKE  
A **TOASTER**  
OUT OF YOU  
BY THE TIME  
I'VE FINISHED.



DON'T  
WASTE  
YER BREATH  
SAYING  
THANK YOU  
PAL ...

YOU'RE  
NICKED!



D.I. MAVERYK is pretty much an 'OLD SCHOOL' COPPER.

PACE is just how fast he goes.



OKAY MAVERYK. CUT THAT OUT!

HE'S MINE.

I don't know who the guy in green is.



Maveryk seems to know him.

WAIT IN LINE CRANE.

THIS MAN IS A SUSPECT IN A MURDER INVESTIGATION ...

I KNOW, AND HE MAY HAVE JUST KILLED A Q AGENT.



THIS INVESTIGATION HAS ALREADY BEEN HANDED OVER TO Q.

NOW YOU HAND THE SUSPECT OVER TO ME!

What's Q? some kind of SECRET POLICE UNIT?



Whatever it is, it's got clout.

Maveryk hands JACK STAFF over without another word.



HEY! I KNOW YOU!

YOU'RE THAT TART FROM THE WORLD'S PRESS!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

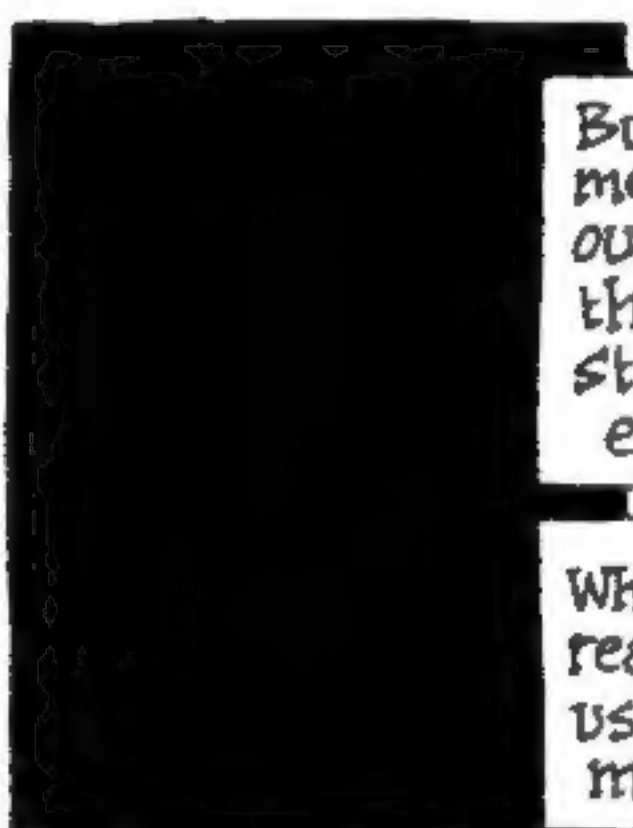
GIVE ME THAT!

MAVERYK does give me the film back.



But since that means ripping it out of the back of the camera, he still destroys the evidence.

Which is funny really, as MAVERYK usually has to make his own up.





JUST  
SO YOU  
KNOW, I'M  
NOT IN THE  
MOOD FOR  
GAMES.

MY  
COLLEAGUE  
WAS  
KILLED  
LAST  
NIGHT.

AND  
YOU WERE  
FOUND ON  
THE SCENE  
WITHIN  
SEVENTEEN  
SECONDS.

R

# QUESTIONS

GIVE ME  
ONE GOOD  
REASON  
WHY I  
SHOULDN'T  
JUST LOCK YOU  
UP IN A ROOM  
WITH TOM  
TOM THE  
ROBOT MAN.

MY  
NAME IS  
JOHN  
SMITH.

COMMANDER  
HANKES  
OF UNIT D  
WILL VOUCH  
FOR ME

WE  
ALREADY  
TRIED THE  
NUMBER  
YOU  
GAVE US.

UNIT  
D WAS  
SHUT  
DOWN  
OVER  
FIFTEEN  
YEARS  
AGO!





SO LET'S  
START  
AGAIN.

CARE  
TO TELL  
ME WHAT  
YOU WERE  
DOING OUT  
THERE LAST  
NIGHT?

AGAIN.  
I HEARD  
A WOMAN  
SCREAM  
BUT BY THE  
TIME I GOT  
TO HER, SHE  
WAS **ALREADY**  
DEAD. BEFORE  
I COULD DO  
**ANYTHING**  
ELSE, I WAS  
ATTACKED  
BY THE  
TIN MAN

ALL  
INSIDE  
**SEVENTEEN**  
**SECONDS?**  
YOU MUST BE  
A FAST  
WORKER  
MISTER  
SMITH.

WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO THE  
**KILLER?**  
DID HE JUST  
**VANISH**  
INTO THIN  
AIR?

POSSIBLY.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
KNOW ABOUT  
**MARY DRAPER**  
AND **NIKKI**  
**THOMPSON?**

**ONLY**  
WHAT I  
HEARD ON  
THE RADIO.



BOTH  
WERE FOUND  
WITH THEIR  
THROATS CUT  
AND THE  
BLOOD WAS  
DRAINED  
FROM THEIR  
BODIES.

AND  
THEIR  
NECKS  
WERE  
BROKEN.



THAT  
INFORM-  
ATION  
WAS NEVER  
RELEASED  
TO THE  
MEDIA

HOW  
DID YOU  
KNOW  
THAT?



I  
DIDN'T.  
UNTIL  
NOW

BUT  
I HAVE  
SEEN  
THIS  
BEFORE.



oh  
YES?  
WHEN?







ALRIGHT,  
JOHN-  
JACK -  
WHATEVER  
YOUR NAME  
IS...

WHAT  
THE  
HELL'S  
GOING  
ON  
HERE?



ENOUGH  
AGENT  
CRANE.



WHO  
LET  
YOU  
IN?

I'M IN  
THE MIDDLE  
OF AN  
INTERVIEW  
HERE  
...

I WANT  
YOU TO  
RELEASE  
THIS MAN  
INTO MY  
CUSTODY.  
EFFECTIVE  
IMMEDIATELY.



YEAH?  
YOU  
AND  
WHOSE  
ARMY?



SGT.  
STATES

AND THE MILITARY  
MIGHT OF  
UNCLE SAM!

THAT'S  
WHO.



I write for THE  
WORLDS PRESS.

It's the FINEST  
PAPER of its  
type.

G. SKINNER  
EDITOR

**WHAT?**

Unfortunately  
its type is  
sleazy lowball  
gutter  
journalism.

I'm a reporter.

It's my job.

YOU  
HEARD  
ME MS.  
DANDILION

WE'RE  
NOT GOING  
T' BE  
RUNNING  
THIS  
NONSENSE

"SECRET  
POLICE UNIT  
WOMAN  
KILLED!"  
"JACK STAFF  
v TOMTOM!"  
"MISSING  
SUPERHERO  
ARRESTED!"

PICK  
YOUR  
OWN  
HEAD  
LINE

THIS  
IS  
NEWS!

I WAS  
THERE.  
I TOOK  
THE  
PHOTOS!

AND  
WHERE  
ARE  
THEY?  
eh?

WITHOUT  
PROOF, THIS  
MIGHT AS  
WELL BE  
IN A  
COMIC!

WE RUN  
THIS AND  
WE LOSE  
CREDIBILITY  
IN THE EYES  
OF OUR  
READERS.

THE WORLDS PRESS  
has credibility?  
That's NEWS to me

I  
EXPECTED  
BETTER  
OF YOU  
BETTY

I don't BELIEVE  
this!

Something is  
WRONG here.

When did Skinner  
grow integrity?

Something  
SMELLS

AUGUST 1940

# SGT. STATES IS MISSING?

SGT STATES - JACK STAFF  
BLAZING GLORY & TOMMY TWISTER

## THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

HOW  
DID YOU  
MANAGE  
TO LOSE  
THE BIG  
LUNK  
HEAD?

I THOUGHT  
I HEARD  
SOMEONE  
TRAPPED  
UNDER  
THIS  
CONCRETE  
SLAB.

THE  
SARGE,  
HE LIFTED  
IT UP, AN'  
OUT FLEW  
HUNDREDS  
OF BATS!

WE'VE  
SEARCHED  
THE AREA  
WITH NO  
LUCK, WHICH  
LEAVES US  
ONE LAST  
POSSIBILITY  
...

BY THE  
TIME WE  
GOT RID  
OF 'EM  
...

HE  
WAS  
GONE!

CHAPTER  
2

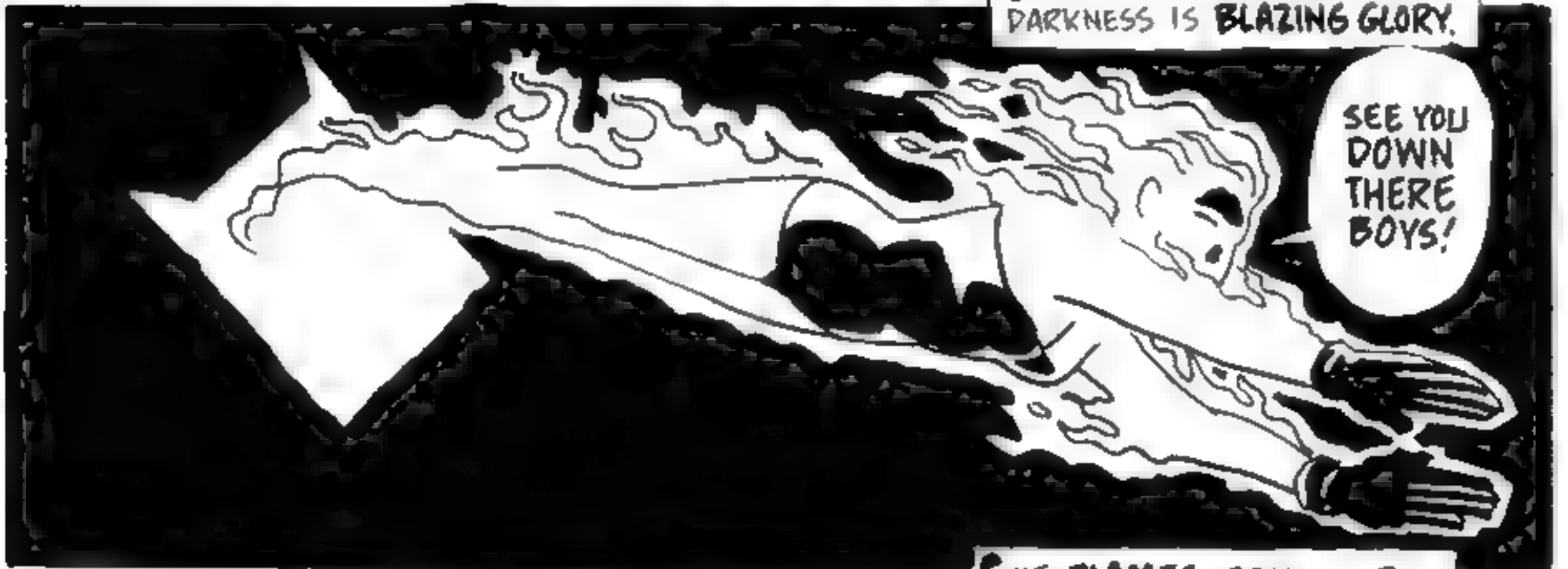
HE'S  
FALLEN  
DOWN  
THE  
HOLE.

GREAT,  
AMERICA'S  
DITHERING  
OVER IF THEY  
WANT TO GET  
INVOLVED  
IN THE  
WAR--

--AND  
WE GO  
AND LOSE  
THEIR  
FIGHTING  
FOOT  
SOLDIER!

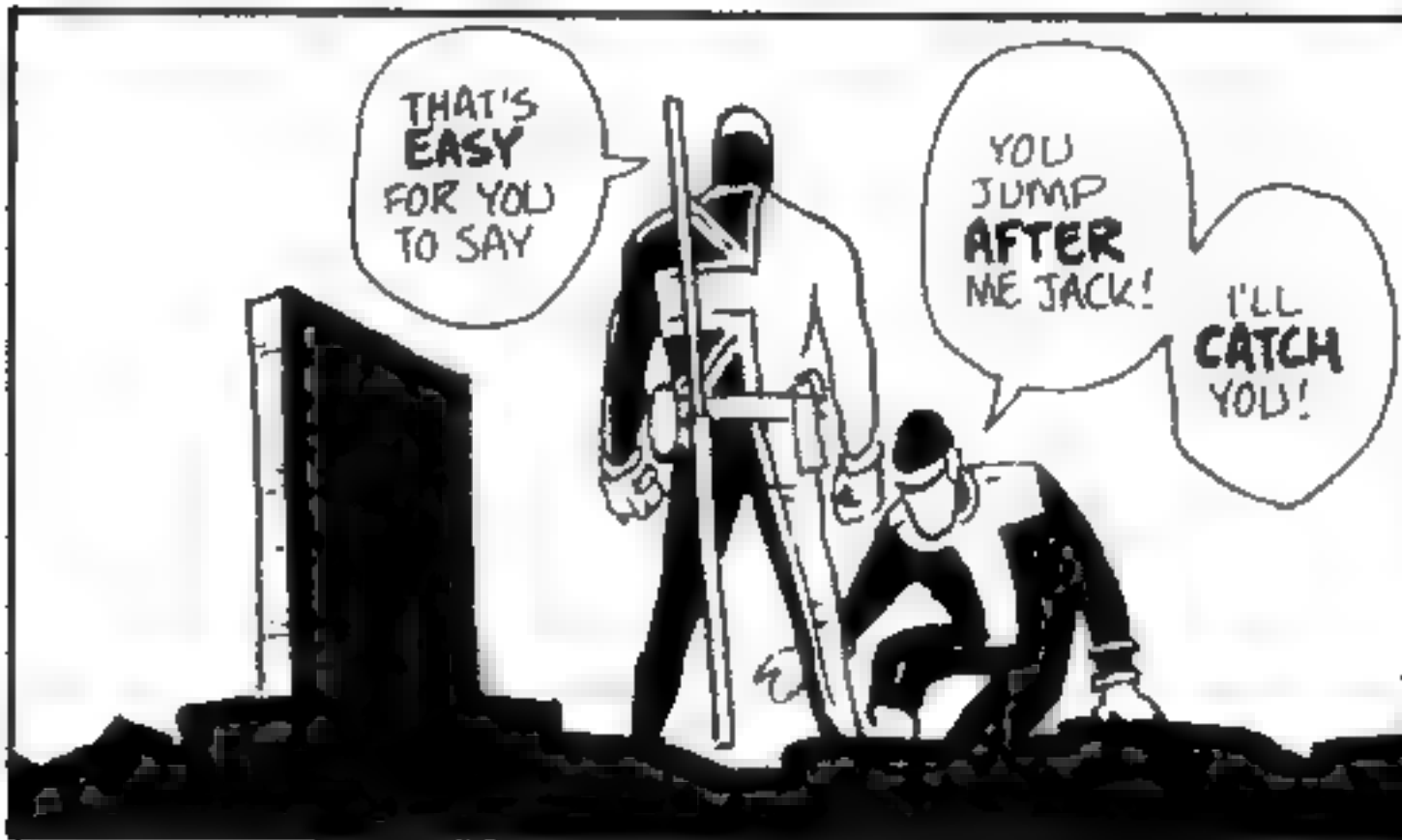
THE  
COMMANDER  
IS GOING  
TO HAVE  
A FIT  
OVER THIS  
ONE.





THE FIRST TO ENTER THE DARKNESS IS **BLAZING GLORY**.

SEE YOU DOWN THERE BOYS!



THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY

YOU JUMP AFTER ME JACK!

I'LL CATCH YOU!

THE FLAMES FROM HER FIERY BODY LIGHTING A PATH FOR HER COMPANIONS TO FOLLOW

**TOMMY TWISTER** IS NEXT

THIS IS THE POWER OF THE **TORNADO**, A RAGING ELEMENTAL FORCE.

MANIPULATING AIR CURRENTS IS SECOND NATURE TO THE PLUCKY FOURTEEN YEAR OLD.



ouch!

**JACK STAFF** JUMPS.

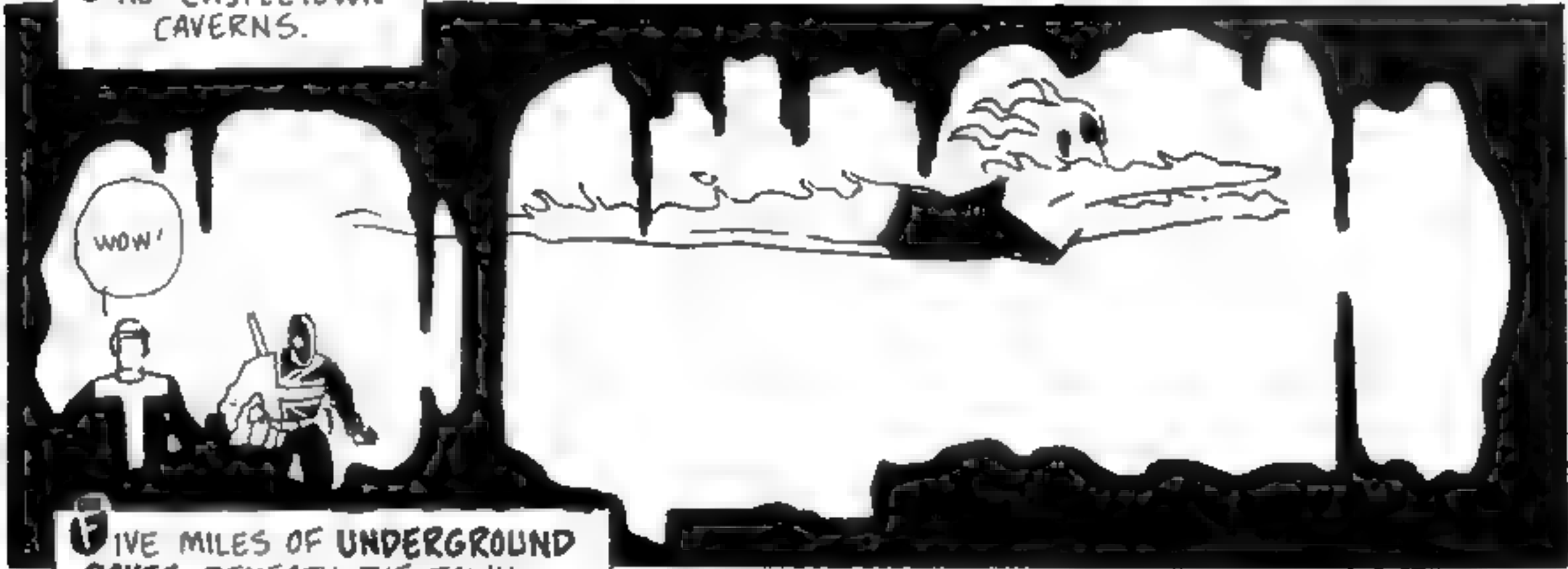
HIS BODY IS **BUFFETED** BY CONCENTRATED BLASTS OF AIR AS **TOMMY TWISTER** ALTERNATELY **HOLDS** THEN **DROPS** JACK DEEPER INTO THE DEPTHS BELOW

IT'S NOT THE MOST **GENTLE** DESCENT, BUT IT GETS HIM DOWN



FINALLY, AT LEAST SOMEONE THINKS TO BRING A ROPE

THE CASTLETOWN  
CAVERNS.



FIVE MILES OF UNDERGROUND  
CAVES BENEATH THE TOWN.



YOU COULD SEARCH  
A LIFETIME FOR  
SOMEONE DOWN  
HERE AND NEVER  
FIND THEM...



SOMETIMES YOU GET LUCKY



SOMETIMES YOU DON'T.





CONTINUED

MS. BURDOCK,  
SERGEANT  
HENDERSON  
HERE - THOUGHT  
YOU'D LIKE TO  
KNOW THAT THAT  
**JACK STAFF**  
CHAPPIE YOU  
WERE ASKING  
ABOUT IS BEING  
RELEASED.

HI BECKS!  
**LAURENCE.**  
SOMETHINGS  
COME UP.  
**CALL ME!**

IN CASE  
ANYONE  
ASKS, YOU  
**NEVER** GOT  
THAT FROM  
**ME.** YOU  
DON'T EVEN  
**KNOW ME.**

REBECCA,  
IT'S ME.  
YOUR  
**MOTHER**  
WHY DON'T  
YOU CALL?

LOOK,  
JUST  
**DELETE**  
THIS TAPE!  
**FORGET**  
I EVER  
**BOTHERED!**  
OKAY?



I'm knackered

Only when I sit  
down to listen to my  
messages does it  
hit me that I haven't  
actually **SLEPT** in  
the last **TWENTY**  
**FOUR HOURS**



Ever have one of  
those moments, half  
awake/half asleep,  
when there's a  
moment of pure  
clarity, of under  
standing, and you  
know the secret  
of the mystery of  
the universe?

And then you  
**WAKE UP...**

**NO.**  
NO, THAT'S  
**REALLY**  
**STUPID.**

ISN'T  
IT?



THEY FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE AGAINST FREEDOM'S FASCIST FOE--



BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO!

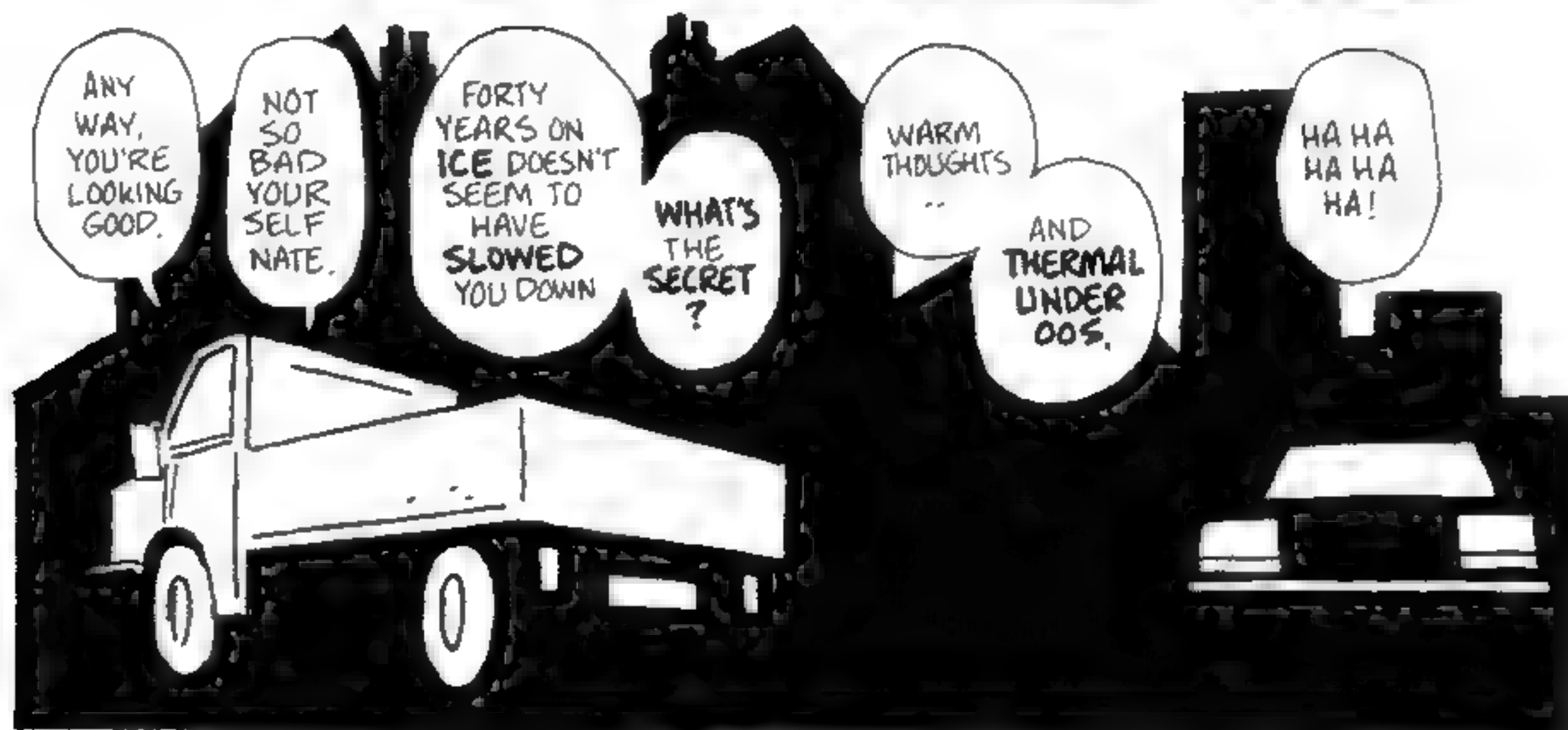
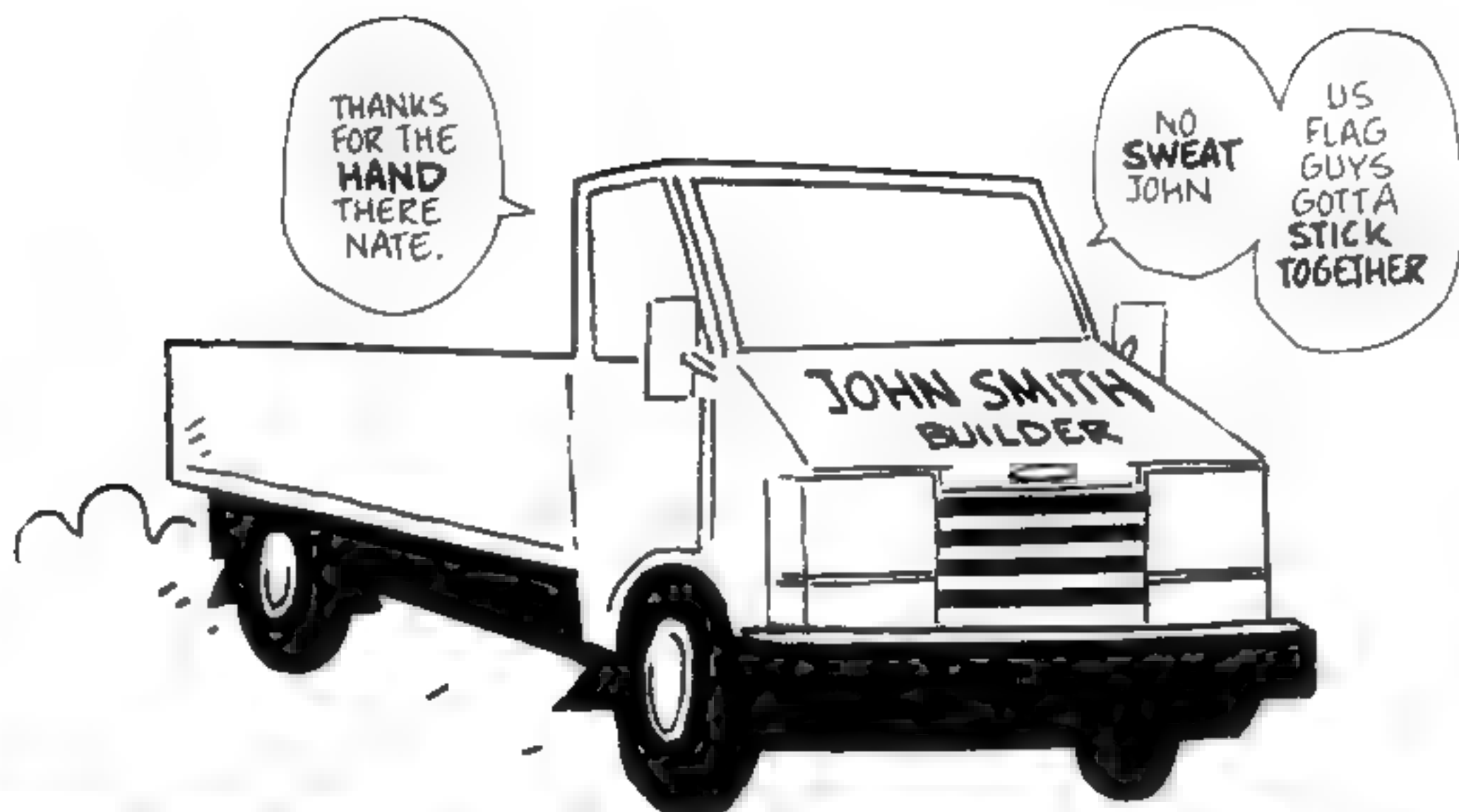
AMERICA'S  
FIGHTING FOOTSOLDIER!

**JACK  
STAFF**

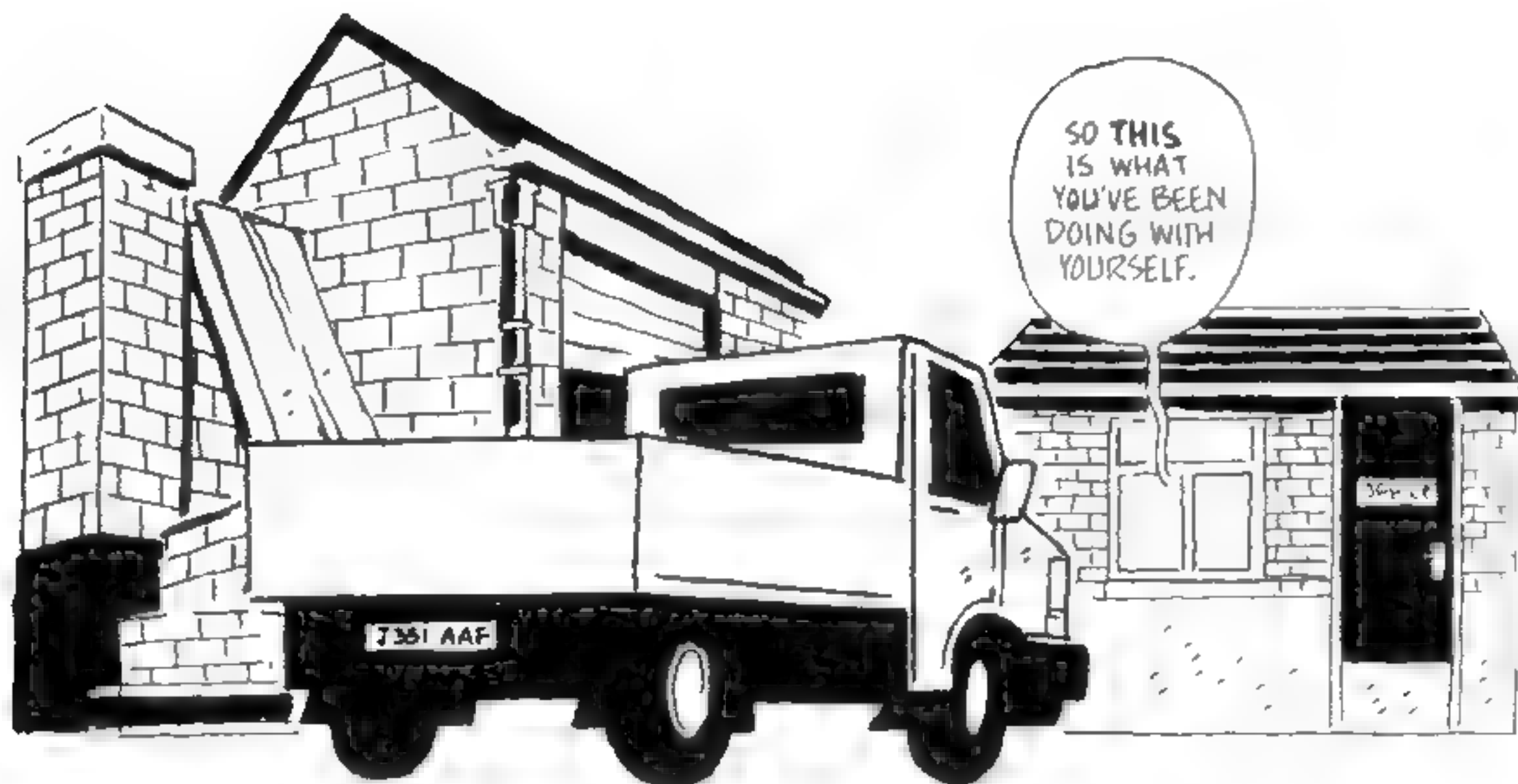
&

**SGT.  
STATES**

TOGETHER AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY SIXTY YEARS!











And I'm not going until  
I get some answers.

Where have you BEEN  
for the past TWENTY years?

What HAPPENED to make  
you give it all up?

Why come back NOW?



What is that SMELL?

# STAFF POST



**DANCING ELEPHANT PRESS**  
P.O. BOX 2362, WELLS, BASINGSTOKE, ENGLAND  
e-mail: danceleph@aol.com

Dear Mr Grist

I've just finished my copy of Jack Staff 1 and I loved every minute of it. I suspect this was at least in part due to the long period I spent going to school in a town called Castletown on the Isle of Man, but mostly down to the fact that this was simply a good story told well. Of the large cast we've seen so far, I'm already fond of both Q and Tom Tom the Robot Man, with the suspiciously normal John Smith the Builder coming in a close second. This is a classic superhero mystery story, owing as much to the likes of Jonathan Creek as to Zenith, and I think that's what I like the most.

In fact, there is something unfailingly English about this and I don't mean that in a remotely xenophobic or nationalistic way. For want of a better word, it's the calm that the story is told with, which not only doesn't detract from the drama but if anything, adds to it. The Dad's Army cameo was funny, but their tired, horrified reactions to the war were what stayed with me after I'd closed the issue.

All in all, fantastic stuff and I look forward to issue 2.

Alisdair Stuart  
13 Sadberge Court  
Osbalwick  
YORK YO1 3DB

Dear Paul

Just a quick note to say how much I loved Jack Staff 1. There was one in the local comic shop and I busted some guy's fingers to get it. Ooh we're tuff up here, mate.

Anyway, it's one of them comics I want to see the next twenty issues NOW!. Get on with it!

Steve Martin  
40 Gloucester Street  
Newtown  
CHESTER CH1 3HR

Steve told me I'd love Jack Staff and as usual he was right. It's absolutely brilliant, just lovely to read. Thanks from Louise x

Dear Paul

With the erratic appearance of Kane it seems insane that you've chosen to launch a second ongoing title, but I've always appreciated wilful Knack for the unexpected turn, and it does look like the work of a fellow revitalised.

I get as easily suckered by nostalgia as the next guy - I'm currently reading Avengers - heaven knows there's little reason beyond nostalgia to be doing that. I felt a spontaneous smile at the appearance of Dad's Army. I'm kind of aware Robot Archie existed, but my response is more blank there. Likewise I get little visceral thrill from a 'patriotic' hero, however nice the U.J. cossie and the kinky leather accessories and combat boots. Nostalgia would seem to me most everything that's wrong with the way the comics market is disappearing up its own fundament. But the problem there lies with the naked apparition of an aging closed shop audience indulging itself stupid, and exploitation of same; rather than the notion of nostalgia in itself - or indeed the flavour and quality inherent in a bygone era.

And it appears you are too clever to surrender everything at face value - there are hints of detournements and fresh angles on familiar icons throughout your first issue. The presentation itself - from the surprise and delight of colour inserts, the divided narrative strands, and - as with all of your work - the firm scaffold of design and structure fixing everything neatly in place; all adds up to make Jack Staff feel like a thoroughly modern incarnation of a grand and hallowed tradition. Respect, a joy for past joys and a weather eye on the future are all evident. Nothing that radical, but not too simple either.

Pages 2 thru 5 were particularly classic. But either that big heavy sign fell very slowly, or Slade sing a fuck of a lot faster than I remember! Almost as sublime and ridiculous as holding a conversation while beating ten bells out of each other! (I love comics.)

I wish you the best of British, all the best with this your brand new venture. Jolly good show and all that. Toodle-oo, pip pip

Ed Hillyer  
Detonator  
24 Rivington Street  
LONDON

*Next issue: Becky Burdock gets a front page story. It's not good news.*



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